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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

21 October 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: SR/CPP

SUBJECT : Assessment of First RANTER Scripts

1. Identification of Soviet Communism with the Russian People.

Throughout the scripts Soviet Communism is identified with the Russian people. The USSR is referred to as "Bolshevik Russia", (p.1). Soviet Communism is called "Russian-Communist Fascism", (p.7). In the view of the script writers Russians and only Russians are responsible for the maintenance of the Soviet system—, e.g., "Russian Communists murder the soul of the Ukrainian people and destroy their life", (p.9). The Communist hierarchy is called "Russian tyrants", (p.13). It is implied throughout that Russians are and must be imperialists. On page 19, for example, there is a reference to Finnish "Russians Red or White?" On page 11 is a reference to "White and Red tsars of Moscow?"

2. Attacks on Western Democracy.

There are several items in the script which raise the question of the ideological orientation of the script writers. On pages 6 and 7, we find a paragraph stating that the French revolution inaugurated an era of capitalist exploitation in Europe. This is how the writers refer to the period in which absolutism was destroyed in Western Europe and was succeeded by constitutional democracy; he writes that "It took 100 years to overwhelm this beast of prey, by the peoples of Europe who united in labor unions and secured the 8 hour work day and just wages." On page 8 we find another gratuitous slap at "Capitalism" in the phrase "The Red State Capitalistic Fascism of the Communists." One of the writers speaks lovingly of the destruction of the reign of "Capitalists" in the 1917 revolution.

3. Identification of the Equation of Soviet Imperialism with Tsarist Imperialism

It has been the policy of SR/PP in ABCROAK, and it is also a policy of Radio Liberation to include in their broadcasts' scripts emphasizing that the Bolshevik revolution was a reactionary and not a progressive revolution.

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It pushed the Russians and the other peoples of the USSR into a new dark age by interrupting and negating what had been steady progress towards a democratic parliamentary state. This has been done in the interest of demonstrating to the Russians that they have free traditions of their own and a history of development toward the political realisation of those traditions. The RANTER scripts are in conflict with this view. They betray an attitude towards the tsarist government which borders on the paranoid. On page 1, for example tsarist Russia is accused of "organized depopulation of the Ukraine." On the same page it is stated that at the time of the freeing of the serfs the government took from the Ukrainian peasants 1/3 of the land which they owned. It is true that the government did gerrymander the peasants' holdings after 1862, but it is also true that the Russian and Byelorussian peasants suffered from this practice along with their Ukraine brethren.

4. Murky Interpretations

On page 1 it is stated that hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians are being forced to leave their farms for Central Asia. This is the first indication we have of any new mass deportations. Also, the collectivization of agriculture is viewed solely as a means of destroying the Ukrainian people, (p.2).

5. Delivery

The woman's voice is excellent, we could use such a female voice on AECRAOK. The male speaker, however, mumbles and sounds professorial and utterly bored with the whole thing.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the RANTER tapes which have so far been prepared be rejected for the following reasons:

- a. It is believed to be official policy that our enemy is not the Russian people, but the Soviet Communist system.
- b. It is submitted that the Soviet Communists' hierarchy is a-national, or international and that the Russian people as well as the Ukrainian and the other peoples of the USSR suffer from the regime and are equally disposed against it.

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- c. It is submitted that the writers of the RANTER scripts which we have so far seen, are less concerned with fighting Communism than with fighting Russians and with securing independence for the Ukraine. It is also submitted that the scripts indicate that the writers might not be dissatisfied with an independent quasi-Marxist Ukraine.
- d. Broadcasting the scripts in their present form would arouse resentment among Russian listeners and probably among many Ukrainians.
- e. The delivery of the male speaker is unsatisfactory.

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SR/PP